WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

AUGUST 2025

IN & OUT, NO TRAFFIC

Traveling around the Mountain State I sometimes check in on unfamiliar nets. Sometimes I just lurk in the background and don't bother checking in. One thing I've noticed, very few nets have people checking "in-and-out" during their initial check in. For some nets that seems to be the standard rather than the exception. I wonder how many of those "in-and-outers" actually turn their radios off? Are they really out? Or do they just not want to talk?

There is another trend of checking in and announcing "no traffic". Most net controllers ask early in the net if anyone has traffic. If you don't speak up then, the net controller should assume you don't have any traffic. There is no reason to belabor the issue as you check in. Do those checking in with "no traffic" really just mean they don't want to talk?

Scott Nasby, KB8ZIO, one of my many Elmers, has asked several times "Why would anyone take the time to get a license, spend that much money for a radio, put up an antenna and then pass up the opportunity to talk on it?" I've never had a valid answer for him.

So, to avoid any misunderstanding when I check in to any net, whether at home or on the road, I do so as follows: "This is Kilo-Echo-Eight-Papa-November-Yankee, KE8PNY, Jim from Tornado". When on the road or working away from home I add "mobile" or "portable". I try to not say "in-and-out" or "no traffic". Sometimes I slip up and use those terms, but they are bad habits I'm trying to break.

Maybe someday "in-and-out" will only refer to the west coast burger chain and "no-traffic" will be a highway report. Untill then, some hams will continue to use the terms incorrectly and visitors to the net will wonder what is going on.

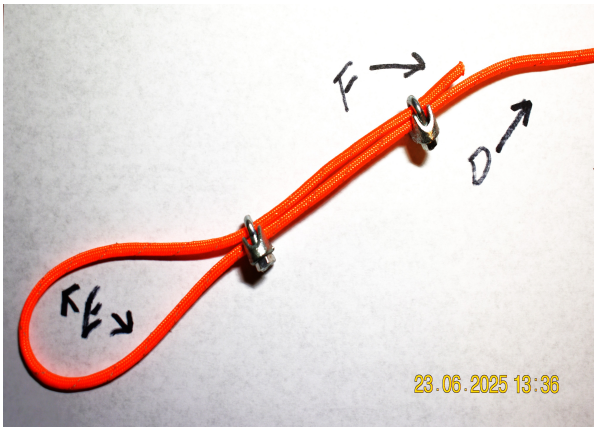
DID YOU KNOW...

Originally, in the 1960s, the emergency phone number to call for help was going to be nine-nine-nine. It was changed to nine-eleven because it took too long for rotary phones to dial nine-nine-nine. The phone company had to keep the first nine for technical reasons but changed the last two to eleven. They also quit refering to it as nine-eleven because people complained there wasn't an eleven on their phone. So nine-one-one was born!

NEVER SADDLE A DEAD HORSE

During a recent session of Charley Young's, N8RR, Antenna 101 Class, Mike Smoot, KD8GWH, took over and gave an impromtu lesson in rigging guy wires the proper way when using “U” bolt or Crosby clamps.

In case you don't know there are three parts to these clamps (Picture to right): A) the “U” bolt, B) the saddle which fits over the ends of the “U” bolt, and C) the nuts to fit the “U” bolt. Sometimes regular or lock washers are used as well; but not always. The wire rope also has three parts (Picture below): D) the working end or live end (the long end with the load, E) the loop or middle part and F) the terminal or **dead** end.



The proper way to assemble all the wire rope can be seen in Figure 2 where each part is identified by the letters above. The “U” bolt ALWAYS has the dead end placed in it, The live end has the saddle securing it to the dead end and the “U” bolt. The nuts securely hold it all together. For wire cable less than one half inch in diameter always use two clamps assembled the same way to ensure there is no slippage. One half inch through five-eights diameter cable uses three clamps.

The proper procedure is to double the cable and place the first clamp one saddle length from the dead end. After it is snug, place the second clamp as near the loop as possible. If using a third clamp, it should be evenly spaced between the first two. Tighen them as appropriate, If your tower requires cable thicker than five-eights disameter and more than three clamps, you should be or consult an expert, not me. The phrase “Never saddle a dead horse” helps you remember that the saddle ALWAYS goes on the live or working end of the cable.

DIAMETER	NUMBER OF CLAMPS	TURNBACK
1/8 inch	2	3 ¼ inches
3/6 inch	2	3 ¾ inches
¼ inch	2	4 ¾ inches
5/16 inch	2	5 ¼ inche
3/8 inch	2	6 ½ inches
7/16 inch	2	7 inches
½ inch	3	11 ½ inches
9/16 inch	3	12 inches
5/8 inch	3	12 inches

KD8GWH went on to explain that many people install their ground anchors incorrectly. The proper orientation has the shaft of a screw-in ground anchor continuing in a line from the live end of the wire rope. Any pull has its force along the center axis of the anchor. This orientation has the screw portion of the ground anchor resisting any effort to pull it out of the ground. Any other orientation allows the anchor to wiggle and eventually work free. If you don't believe me or KD8GWH maybe you'll believe Ma Bell (OK, maybe its AEP's pole). Anyway, here is a photo of a utility guy line near my house. Of course this rule only applies to screw-in anchors. Those driven in , like tent stakes, should be perpendicular to the guy wire or they will pull straight out.

Since then I've moved the mast that supports my "J-pole" and the center of my HF dipole. I only moved it ten feet to get it away from branches that tended to beat it every time the wind blew. While relocating the guy lines I discovered all but two of the Crosby clamps were installed incorrectly. It took me a couple of hours on ladders to correct them. I blame KD8GWH for the extra work. Before his class I was blissfully ignorant. Afterwards I felt compelled to correct them.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

One of fhe biggest and best hamfests in West Virginia, the TRI-STATE AMATEUR RADIO HAMFEST will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025 starting at 8:30 for set up and the doors open at 9:00 AM. This hamfest will be held at the New Baptist Church, 610 Twenty-Eighth Street, in Huntington,WV 25701. Admission is $6. This is the first hamfest I attended as a new ham. I quickly learned that hamfests are as much about fellowship as they are buying snd selling. Of course there is a lot of buying and selling along with the other B S. This year I plan to get there early. I hope to see you all there.

A week later the Portsmouth (Ohio) Radio Club will be holding their HamFest at The New Boston Village Community Center, 3980 Rhodes Avenue, New Boston, Ohio. I'm sorry to say I don't have any more information about it. Portsmouth isn't that far away so I may drive up just to see what it's like.

SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

Saturday, October 11, 2025 **Wood County (WV) Area Hamfest**

Sunday, November 2, 2025 **The KARC Tailgate Hamfest at Coonskin**

WHY DO HAMS MAKE TERRIBLE CHEFS?

They keep trying to tune the oven!

THE AMATEUR'S TOOL BOX

Recently I was reading the 1950 Edition of ARRL's *"The Radio Amateur's Handbook"* when I found a list of the "indispensable tools" for the amateur radio operator. I thought it might interest you to see what they recommended 75 years ago.

Long nose pliers, 6 inch	Hammer, ball peen, 1 pound head
Diagonal cutting pliers, 6 inch	Heavy knife
Screwdriver, 6-7 inch, ¼ inch blade	Yardstick or other straight edge
Screwdriver, 4-5 inch, 1/8 inch blade	Carpenter's brace with adjustable hole cutter
Scratch awl or scriber for marking lines	Large coarse flat file
Combination Square 12 inch to lay out work	Large round or rat tail file, ½ inch diameter
Hand drill, ¼ inch chuck or larger, 2 speed type preferred	3 or 4 small and medium files – flat, round, half round and triangular
Electric soldering iron, 100 watts	Drills (bits?, various sizes listed)
Solder and solderimg paste (noncorroding)	Combination oil stone for sharpening tools
Hacksaw, 12 inch blades	Medium weight machine oil
Center punch for marking hole centers	

I was shocked to see no mention of Phillips Head screwdrivers, electrical tape, heat shrink tubing or zip ties. The article didn't mention a multi-meter either. I guess these are all newer than I thought.

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted back issues of WV SPLATTER on their website at www.wv8ar.com . I have decided to send out theWV Nets and WV Clubs listings as separate documents once each quarter rather than each month to reduce the number of pages sent out over and over. Corrections and updates to those items will be held until the next quarter.

I continually need more and different types of articles for WV SPLATTER. If you know of an event coming up in a couple of months, have an idea for an article you want to write, or something you want me to research and write about, then drop me an email at nettlescreek@frontier.com . I also need photos and artwork each month. Use the same address to submit email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in being on the WV SPLATTER Distribution List. They don't have to be in West Virginia, they don't even have to be a ham.

I was recently asked about including advertisements for ham gear in WV SPLATTER. Ads for ham radio equipment, tools, and related items are welcome. Get them to me by the fifteenth of the month and I'll include them in the next months WV SPLATTER.

73 and thanks to all.

Jim Hudson, KE8PNY
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